

MINUTES
BRUNSWICK EDC
3 February 2005

Present: Wayne Allgaier, James R. Castle, Judy Cheng, James Gangawere. [Attendance low due to snow]

Minutes of January meeting approved.

Resignations

- June Orrison has resigned from the EDC due to other commitments (especially with the RR Museum).
- Beth Johnson, having been recently elected to the City Council, will no longer be able to serve as a member of the EDC.
- (Several names were discussed as possible new members of the EDC. Jim Castle will explore these possibilities.)

New business activity in town:

- **EBA Sports** is now open. Grand Opening event to be held in the spring.
- **Thrift Shop** (at Grace Episcopal Church): Grand Opening later this month.
- **84 Lumber** is now under construction.
- **Bill Gilbert's** new physical therapy practice at shopping center: status unknown.

Welcome Baskets. Distribution scheduled for this coming Sunday afternoon. Please call Beth if you are able to help. (Preparation of baskets was scheduled for later this evening, but postponed due to snow. Beth will see that this is done before Sunday.) While Beth has been the driving force behind this project, it is an EDC activity, and someone else on the EDC will have to be assuming charge of it (although Beth has expressed her willingness to continue helping with it).

Monthly Business Breakfasts

- January: John Lovell spoke.
- February: Jim Castle working with Jim Gangawere on getting a speaker. Jim C. will send out e-mail two weeks before the event to let people know.
- Discussed possibility of holding an evening business *dinner* sometime in the near future. This may attract some business people who are not able to attend the breakfasts. Thurmont is alternating breakfasts and dinners.
- Other locations, such as Beans in the Belfry, also discussed.

Volunteer Guided Tours of Brunswick. Ellis Burruss has suggested getting a pool of local volunteers who would be willing to drive new move-ins [and perhaps potential move-ins] around town to show them what we have here (schools, services, businesses, Main Street, etc.) The concept was received favorably. Like all other ideas, we need someone to volunteer to take charge of it and to implement it.

Vacant Structures Tax Credit, proposed by Frederick County. Jim C. has sent letters to two property owners in Brunswick to whom this might apply, and invited them to attend the hearing at Winchester Hall where this will be discussed.

EDC Budget discussed. Very little has been spent this year. In preparation for the next fiscal year, we need to discuss what our budgetary needs will be, and submit our request in April.

Report from Frederick County OED (James Gangawere)

- Thurmont is still pursuing Main Street designation.
- Information about National Main Street Conference (in Baltimore May 9-11) available at mainstreet.org. Participants can register on line, and there is a discount if you register before March.
- Topic for March's "Main Street Monday" will be Strategic Planning.
- Other county events discussed.
- Jim G. has requested that our local EDC submit a list of businesses to be recognized this fall during the county's (5th) annual Business Appreciation Week.

Election of new EDC Chair could not be done, due to lack of quorum. However, due to his position of Chairman of Brunswick Main Street, Wayne is being released as Chairman of the EDC, and Jim C., as Council Liaison, will assume temporary leadership of the organization until a new chair can be elected. With so few EDC members being residents of Brunswick (a requirement to be chair), there will be an emphasis on recruiting new members. Wayne indicated his desire to continue as an active participating member of the EDC, and will help with the transition to the new chair when they are selected.

Next EDC meeting date: Thursday, March 3, at 730 pm.

Wayne Allgaier
(retiring) Chairman, EDC